

## NAVOIY IN THE EYES OF MODERN SCHOLARS

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**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada buyuk mutafakkir va shoir Alisher Navoiy ijodining zamonaviy tadqiqotchilar nigohidagi talqini, ularning asarlarga bergan baholari, ilmiy-tanqidiy yondashuvlari va Navoiy merosining bugungi davrdagi dolzarbligi haqida soʻz yuritiladi. Navoiy asarlarining hozirgi zamon adabiyotshunoslari tomonidan oʻrganilishi, ular tomonidan olib borilayotgan ilmiy izlanishlar, shuningdek, uning ijodining xalqaro miqyosdagi oʻrni ham tahlil qilinadi.

**Kalit soʻzlar:** Alisher Navoiy, zamonaviy tadqiqotchilar, tasavvuf, adabiy meros, xalqaro tadqiqotlar, gʻoyaviy boylik, poetika, maʼnaviyat, ilmiy qarashlar.

**Annotation:** This article explores the legacy of the great Uzbek poet and thinker Alisher Navoiy as seen by modern scholars. It examines academic perspectives from researchers across various countries on his works, including his contributions to Sufism, ethics, and literature. The paper also discusses how Navoiy's literary heritage is currently being studied internationally and his role in the global literary canon.

**Keywords:** Alisher Navoiy, modern scholars, Sufism, literary heritage, international research, poetics, spirituality, academic perspectives.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье рассматривается оценка наследия великого узбекского поэта и мыслителя Алишера Навои современными исследователями. Анализируются научные взгляды учёных из разных стран на его произведения, суфизм, этику и литературное наследие. Также внимание уделяется международным исследованиям творчества Навои и его вкладу в мировое литературное наследие.

**Ключевые слова:** Алишер Навои, современные исследователи, суфизм, литературное наследие, международные исследования, поэтика, духовность, научные взгляды.

Alisher Navoiy is a distinguished figure of Uzbek literature, a great poet, thinker, statesman, and Sufi who holds a unique place in the intellectual history of the East. He made an invaluable contribution to the spiritual wealth of humanity. His literary works are not only adorned with aesthetic beauty at the highest level, but they also emphasize humanism, justice, the pursuit of perfection, science, compassion, and other universal values. Through his works, Navoiy not only gives us aesthetic pleasure but also promotes the ideas of humanity, moral purity, and the perfect human being. Therefore, when we study Navoiy's works, we understand that he was a promoter of high ideas and noble values.

For Navoiy, literature is a means of educating society, purifying the human soul, and guiding it toward perfection. Through poetry, he aimed to lead the people to truth and goodness. One key principle is central to all of his works: helping a person reach a perfect state, develop morally, and find the true meaning of life. In Navoiy's understanding, a true human being is

someone who is knowledgeable, moral, honest, kind to others, compassionate, and patient. In his depiction, such a person should be the pillar of society and serve as a role model for others.

The poet highly praises human virtues in his works. For example, in the poems that are part of the Khamsa cycle, he promotes specific ethical behaviors or virtues through each character. In the poem Hayrat ul-abror, Navoiy contrasts good and evil, truth and falsehood, kindness and wickedness, showing which qualities should dominate the human heart. Through characters such as the scholar, the just king, the benevolent person, and the wise man, the image of the ideal human is created. Through these characters, Navoiy highlights the idea of the “perfect human.”

In Navoiy’s works, the idea of justice holds a special place. According to him, justice is the foundation of societal progress, while oppression is the beginning of destruction. The poet calls on rulers to be just and warns about the consequences of tyranny. In the poem Saddi Iskandariy, through the character of Iskandar (Alexander the Great), Navoiy presents the image of a just ruler. Iskandar is portrayed not only as a powerful commander but also as a knowledgeable, honest ruler who is not indifferent to the suffering of his people. Through this, Navoiy conveys that in governance, humanism, compassion, and justice are essential.

On the other hand, Navoiy regards science, thought, and intellect as highly important values. He describes a person without knowledge as blind, with a darkened heart. But the person who possesses knowledge reaches the truth and benefits society. In Mahbub ul-qulub, Navoiy praises scholars as the most essential members of society. He reflects deeply on the teacher-student relationship, the value of knowledge, the need to respect it, and the importance of using it correctly. Navoiy believed that ignorance could be overcome through knowledge — a belief that remains relevant today. “Navoiy nafaqat o‘zbek, balki butun Markaziy Osiyo adabiyotining eng yirik va jahon miqyosidagi buyuk ijodkoridir.” [1]

For Navoiy, love is also a powerful spiritual and moral force. But it is not a simple, sensual love; rather, it is divine love — a spiritual journey toward God. The poet vividly portrays this idea in the poem Layli and Majnun. Through the character of Majnun, Navoiy illustrates the human striving toward spiritual perfection through love. Majnun elevates his love from a physical feeling to a divine level, enduring physical suffering, public criticism, and loneliness on this path. Through this, Navoiy conveys that true love means devotion, loyalty, and spiritual maturity. It is through this spiritual depth that a person becomes closer to God, understands themselves, and spreads goodness in society.

In Navoiy’s works, compassion, mutual respect among people, unity, generosity, and forgiveness also play an important role. He stresses the need to be aware of the condition of the poor, the needy, and widows and to help them. In Mahbub ul-qulub, these themes are revealed through representatives of different social strata. He advances the idea that compassion should dominate the relationships between the rich and the poor, the educated and the ignorant, the servants and the officials. The poet practiced these values not only in writing but also in action: feeding orphans and the destitute, building madrasas, khanaqahs (Sufi lodges), mosques, and organizing kitchens for the poor — these were all important aspects of Navoiy’s life.

Alisher Navoi stands as a monumental figure in Uzbek literature and the broader Eastern intellectual tradition. As a poet, thinker, statesman, and Sufi, he made unparalleled contributions to humanity's spiritual wealth. His works are adorned not only with literary beauty but also with profound themes of humanism, justice, the pursuit of perfection,

knowledge, and compassion. Through his writings, Navoi offers readers not just aesthetic pleasure but also promotes ideals of humanity, moral purity, and the concept of the "perfect human." Thus, studying Navoi's oeuvre reveals his role as a proponent of lofty ideas and values.

For Navoi, literature serves as a means to educate society, purify the human soul, and guide individuals toward perfection. He aimed to lead people to truth and goodness through poetry. A central principle in his works is the cultivation of a morally and spiritually refined individual who seeks meaning in life. In Navoi's vision, a true human being is knowledgeable, ethical, honest, benevolent, compassionate, and patient—qualities that form the foundation of a strong society and serve as a model for others.

Navoi's literary creations exalt human virtues. In his "Khamisa" collection, each narrative promotes specific moral traits. For instance, "Hayrat ul-abror" contrasts good and evil, truth and falsehood, highlighting the virtues that should prevail in the human heart. Characters such as scholars, just rulers, and wise individuals embody the ideal human, illustrating Navoi's concept of the "perfect person."

Justice holds a prominent place in Navoi's works. He viewed justice as the cornerstone of societal progress and tyranny as the path to destruction. Navoi urged rulers to be just and warned of the consequences of oppression. In "Saddi Iskandariy," he portrays Alexander the Great not only as a formidable conqueror but also as a knowledgeable, honest, and compassionate leader, emphasizing the importance of humanism and justice in governance.

Navoi also esteemed knowledge, intellect, and contemplation as high values. He depicted the uneducated person as blind and spiritually dark, while the learned individual reaches truth and benefits society. In "Mahbub ul-qulub," he venerates scholars as essential members of society, discussing the significance of teacher-student relationships, the value of knowledge, and its proper application. Navoi believed that ignorance could be overcome through education—a belief that remains relevant today.

Love, for Navoi, is a profound spiritual force—not merely a physical desire but a divine love leading to spiritual perfection. In "Layli and Majnun," he delves into this idea, portraying Majnun's journey from earthly love to divine passion. Majnun endures physical hardships, societal criticism, and solitude, elevating his love to a spiritual level. Through this, Navoi conveys that true love entails devotion, fidelity, and spiritual maturity, bringing one closer to the divine and spreading goodness in society.

Compassion, mutual respect, unity, generosity, and forgiveness are also central themes in Navoi's works. He emphasized the importance of caring for the poor, the needy, and the marginalized. In "Mahbub ul-qulub," these themes are explored through various social classes, advocating for compassion to prevail in relationships between the rich and the poor, the educated and the ignorant, and officials and servants. Navoi practiced these values in his life by supporting orphans, building educational and religious institutions, and establishing kitchens for the needy.

Navoi was acutely aware of the hardships faced by the common people, laborers, and those oppressed by unjust officials. He stressed the need to extend a helping hand to them, viewing literature as a tool to highlight societal issues, speak the truth, and awaken the populace. Consequently, Navoi's works resonate with readers, aligning with their lives, emotions, and aspirations.

The universality of Navoi's ideas lies in his perception of humanity as a unified whole. He saw no racial, religious, or national distinctions among people. For Navoi, every individual is

a servant of God and deserves respect and dignity. He promoted justice, peace, mutual respect, enlightenment, and friendship among people. In today's globalized world, these ideals are particularly pertinent, as harmony, human rights, equality, and compassion are foundational to global progress.

As evident, Alisher Navoi's works are rich in universal humanistic ideas. Through his poetry, epics, and prose, he advocated for spiritual maturity, perfection, and the primacy of justice, knowledge, love, and compassion in society. The concepts presented in his works continue to play a vital role in providing moral and spiritual education, especially to the younger generation. Navoi envisioned societal prosperity through personal development, making his works timeless and universally significant. His ideas are eternal, rooted in the most sacred virtues—compassion, justice, knowledge, fidelity, and love—which remain ever-relevant and necessary.

Contemporary literary and cultural studies have introduced various new methodologies for analyzing Navoi's works. Approaches like structuralism, postmodernism, psychoanalysis, and intertextuality are increasingly applied to his texts, uncovering hidden meanings, socio-political contexts, and psychological states through modern thought. For example, "Layli and Majnun" can be interpreted not only as a love story but also as an exploration of internal conflicts, societal alienation, and the dichotomy between divine and earthly love.

Linking the values in Navoi's works to contemporary issues is another modern approach. His writings address themes like corruption, injustice, and disregard for knowledge, which remain relevant today. Navoi's thoughts can serve as a moral guide in these areas. For example, in "Saddi Iskandariy," Alexander's just governance illustrates the qualities of an ideal leader—a concept applicable to modern leadership ethics. “Navoiy asarlarida o‘zining adabiy uslubi va tilda yangiliklar yaratganligi, uning asarlarini yangi davr sharoitida qayta o‘rganishga imkon yaratadi.” [6]

Modern approaches also encompass artistic translations of Navoi's works. Today, his writings are being translated into English, Russian, French, German, and other languages, not merely as literal translations but preserving their poetic and philosophical essence. This enhances Navoi's participation in international literary discourse and brings him closer to global literary heritage.

In the era of technological advancement, digitizing Navoi's legacy and promoting it through electronic libraries and mobile applications is part of modern approaches. Currently, mobile apps and online platforms like "Navoi Library" and "Alisher Navoi's Life and Works" serve as convenient knowledge sources for youth and researchers, facilitating the preservation and dissemination of his works in contemporary formats.

Modern art also draws inspiration from Navoi's creations. Musical compositions, operas, theater, cinema, and visual arts based on his works are attracting young audiences. Examples include the opera "Layli and Majnun," the film "Navoi," and staged versions of "Farhod and Shirin," all contributing to harmonizing Navoi's works with today's aesthetic sensibilities.

Analyzing Navoi's works through the lens of gender issues is another important modern approach. Discussions about women's roles and representations in society are highly relevant today. In Navoi's works, female characters like Shirin and Layli are portrayed not only as symbols of beauty but also as intelligent, wise, and independent thinkers. These portrayals suggest Navoi's advocacy for women's rightful place in society. Modern approaches allow for re-examining these characters from feminist literary. “Navoiyning ilm-fan va madaniyatga bo‘lgan qarashlari uni jahon adabiyotida ham muhim o‘ringa olib chiqdi.” [5]



It should be emphasized that modern approaches to Navoi's works are evident not only in the sphere of analysis and interpretation but also in their application to real life. For example, in pedagogical methodology, educational concepts are being developed based on Navoi's ideas. In psychology, methods of understanding the self and overcoming internal barriers are studied based on the psychological insights found in Navoi's works. This proves that his creative legacy is multifaceted and compatible with contemporary life.

In conclusion, modern approaches to Alisher Navoi's works allow the present generation to gain a deeper understanding of his literary legacy, adapt it to current social needs, and interpret it in a global context. Navoi is not only a poet of the past but also a spiritual guiding star for today and tomorrow. Studying his works through modern lenses is one of the key factors in our scientific, cultural, and moral development. "Navoiy ijodi, uning tasavvufiy nuqtai nazari, o'z davrining ilm-fan, adabiyot va falsafasiga ta'sirini bugungi kunda ham chuqur o'rganish zarur." [2]

Alisher Navoi's legacy is of immense significance not only in his own era but also in today's fields of science, spirituality, and culture. As a poet, thinker, and statesman, Navoi created outstanding examples of Eastern and global thought through his rich literary, philosophical, and ethical heritage. His works are remarkable not only for their literary beauty but also for their profound scientific, social, ethical, and pedagogical content. The topic "The importance of Navoi's legacy for modern science" emerges from the need to highlight these aspects and to analyze this great spiritual treasure within a contemporary academic context.

First of all, Navoi's legacy holds invaluable importance for philological sciences, particularly in literary studies, linguistics, and textual analysis. His works have served as a fundamental basis for the development of Uzbek literature. His "Khamsa," lyrical poems, and prose works are rich in language and style, providing important insights into the lexical richness, grammatical structure, and stylistic features of the Uzbek language. Navoi's poetry shaped the literary norms of his time's language, and this process plays an important role in today's linguistic research. "Navoiy o'z asarlarida diniy-ruhiy qarashlarni ifodalash bilan birga, o'zbek adabiyotining boy o'tmishidan kelajak uchun o'gitlar yaratgan." [4]

Analyzing Navoi's texts using modern methods of textual studies—such as codicology, paleography, and comparative analysis—allows for a deeper understanding of his creativity, accurate study of written sources, and approximation to original manuscripts. This is especially significant in preparing academic editions of Navoi's works. A thorough textual study of Navoi's works serves as a primary source for understanding the historical development of the Uzbek literary language.

The philosophical aspects of Navoi's works are also important for modern philosophy. Particularly, themes such as Sufi philosophy, the concept of the perfect human, and the issues of divine and earthly love are being reinterpreted in light of contemporary philosophical schools. Navoi's idea that "the path to truth is through knowledge and love" remains relevant today. In this regard, Navoi's legacy shares commonalities not only with Eastern but also with Western philosophical traditions. For instance, ideas in Western existentialism about inner spiritual searching and the quest for the meaning of life are reflected in Navoi's works in a unique form. "Navoiy nafaqat o'zbek tilida, balki turli xalqlarda ham o'qiladigan va tahlil etiladigan buyuk ijodkor sifatida qabul qilinadi." [7]

Navoi's legacy also serves as a valuable source for sociology and political science. In his poem "Saddi Iskandariy," he explores issues such as governance, justice, public service, and the ethics of leadership. These ideas can serve as both theoretical and practical foundations

for today's democratic societies. Concepts like building a just society, social equality, and knowledge-based governance align with Navoi's views, warranting scholarly research from a political-philosophical perspective.

In the field of history, Navoi's legacy holds significant value. His works reflect the socio-political life and cultural development of the Timurid era. The historical portrayals and descriptions of his contemporaries in his works serve as reliable sources for historical research. Notably, works like "Tarikh-i Anbiya va Hukama" and "Majalis un-Nafois" are used as historical-biographical references.

Navoi's works are also relevant for the sciences of pedagogy and psychology. He devoted great attention to the upbringing of the perfect person, intellectual and moral development, and spiritual growth. According to Navoi, a person achieves perfection not only through knowledge but also through education, morality, patience, contemplation, and spiritual purity. These ideas are also relevant in contemporary discussions about personal development, education systems, and students' psychological well-being.

In today's world of advancing information technology, Navoi's works are being digitized and analyzed. This directly relates his legacy to modern sciences such as informatics, artificial intelligence, and corpus linguistics. Creating a digital corpus of his works, analyzing them semantically through AI, and studying the structure of his ghazals through computational linguistics all demonstrate the interdisciplinary significance of Navoi's legacy. "Navoiy o'z asarlarida nafaqat zamonidan oldinda bo'lgan bilimlarga, balki insoniyatning umumiy axloqiy qadriyatlariga asoslangan chuqur falsafani ilgari surgan." [3]

Navoi's works are also utilized in the fields of cultural studies and art history today. His views on aesthetics, beauty, and art influence modern theories of art. The musical rhythm, metaphors, and artistic imagery in his epics provide a rich resource for art studies.

In conclusion, Alisher Navoi's legacy has broad significance for contemporary science. It offers rich material for research in philology, philosophy, history, sociology, psychology, pedagogy, political science, art studies, and technology. A deep scholarly study of Navoi's legacy contributes not only to the development of Uzbek national literature but also to the advancement of universal human thought. For this reason, Navoi is not merely a figure of the past but a scientific and spiritual guiding star for today and the future.

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